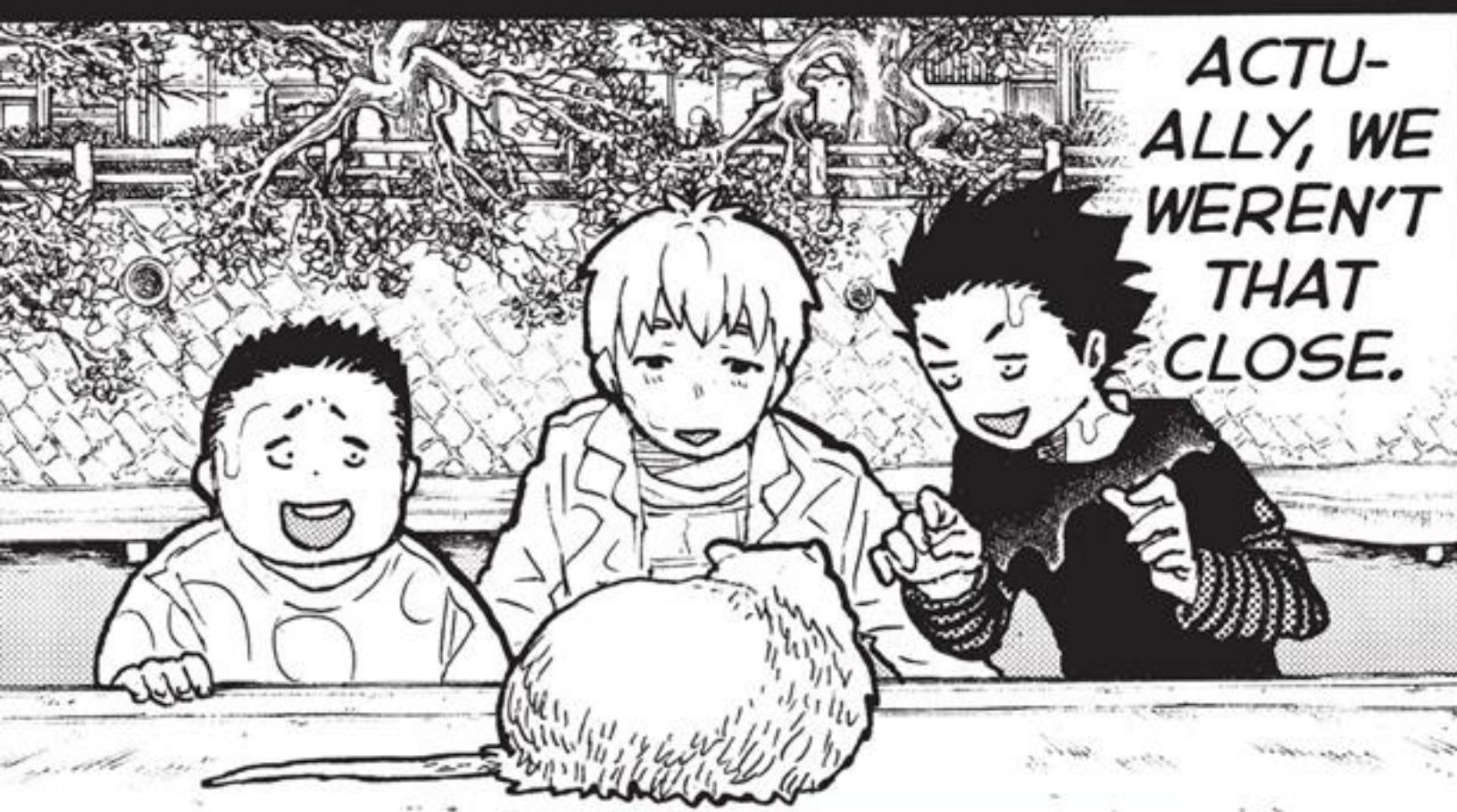




KAZUKI
SHIMADA
WAS A
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND.

CHAPTER 26: BIRDS OF A FEATHER



AND WE
DIDN'T
PLAY
TOGETHER
THAT MUCH.



I DON'T
CARE
ABOUT HIM
ANYMORE.



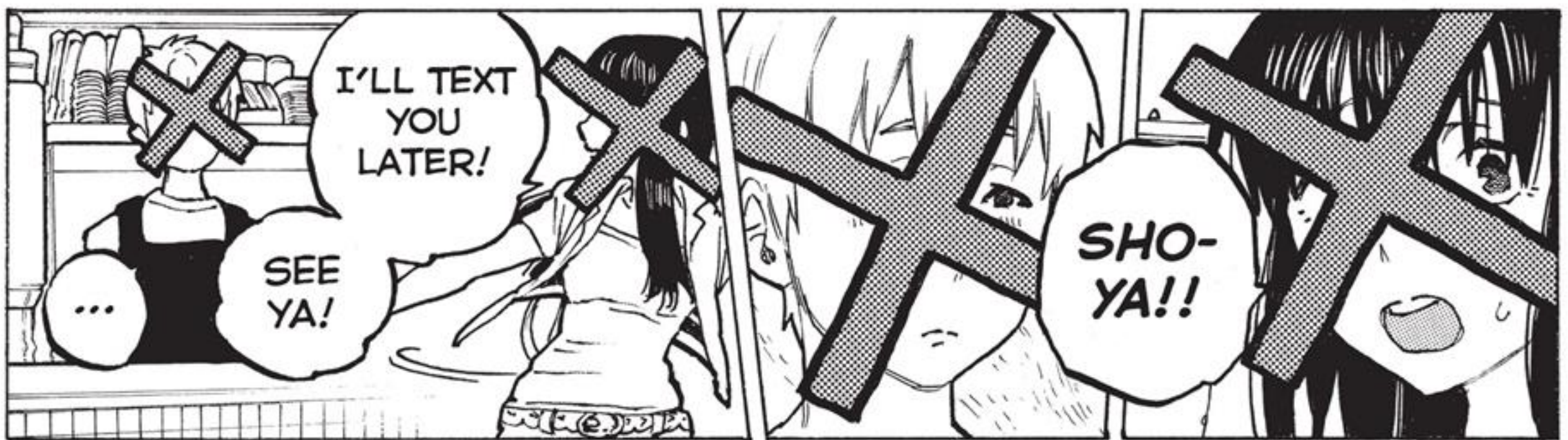
AND I
NEVER
WANT TO
SEE HIM
AGAIN.

I
DON'T
REMEM-
BER
HIM
THAT
WELL.









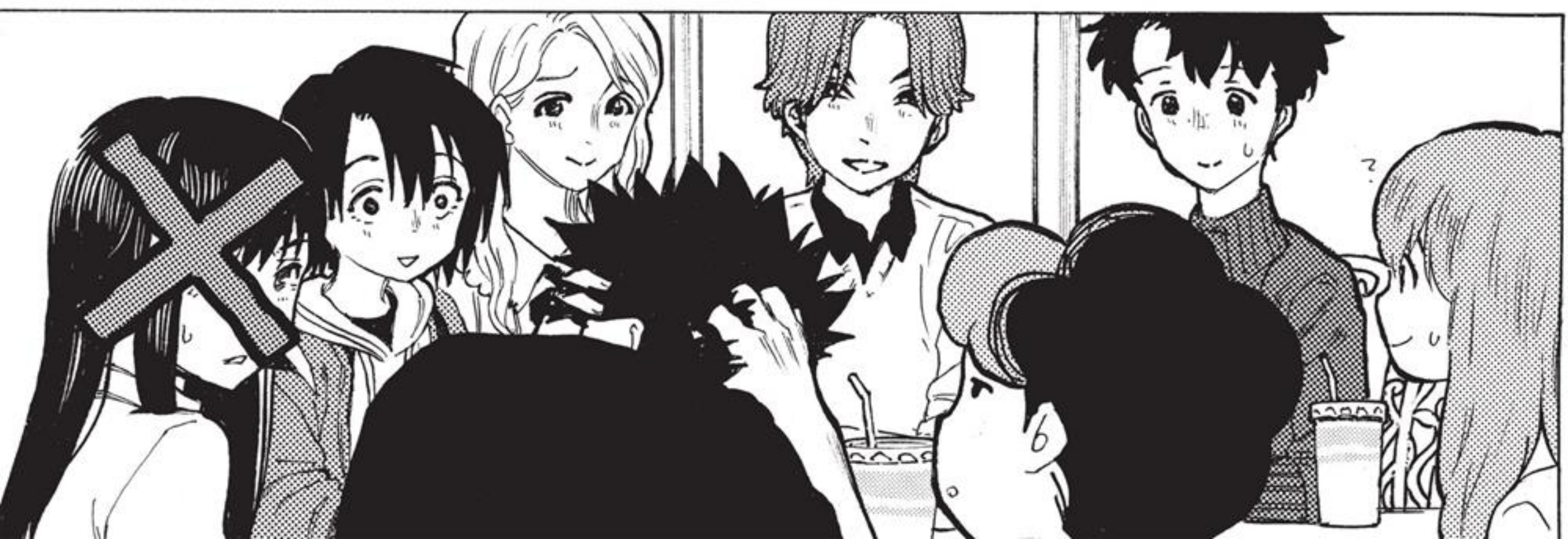
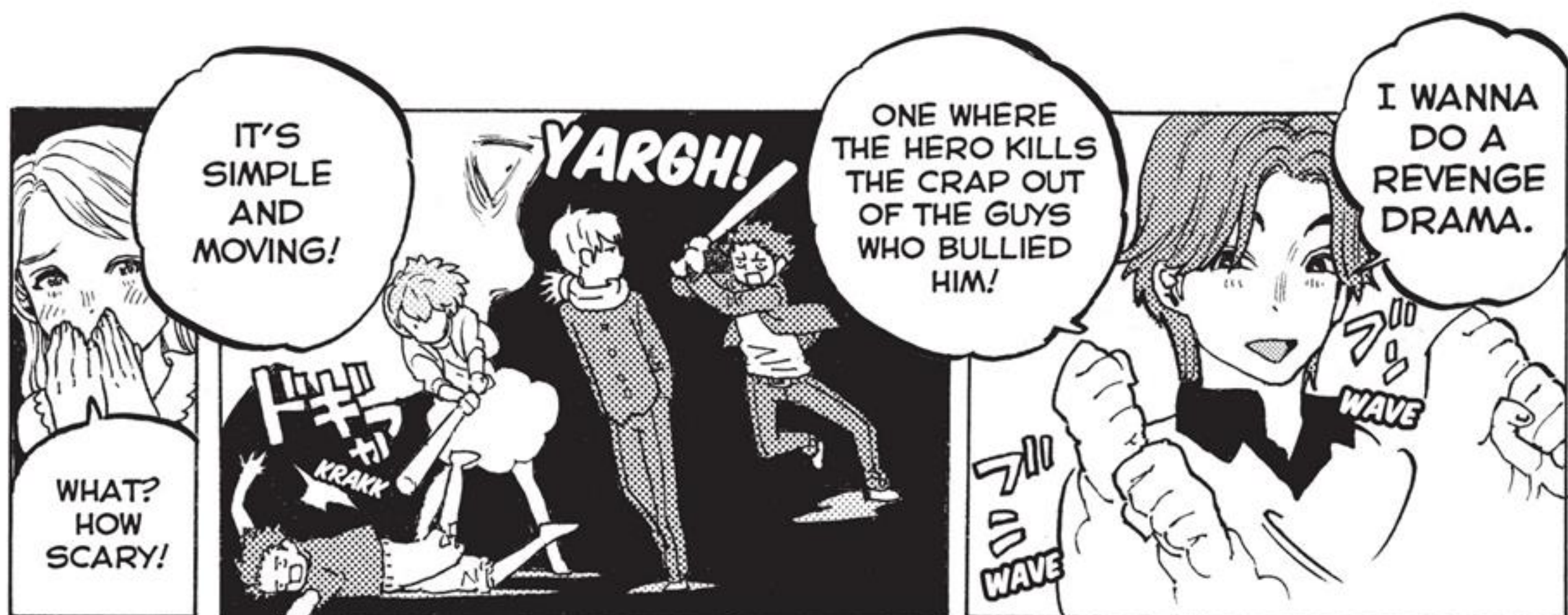
**SHE'S
TRYING TO
DO THE
SAME THING
AS ME!!**

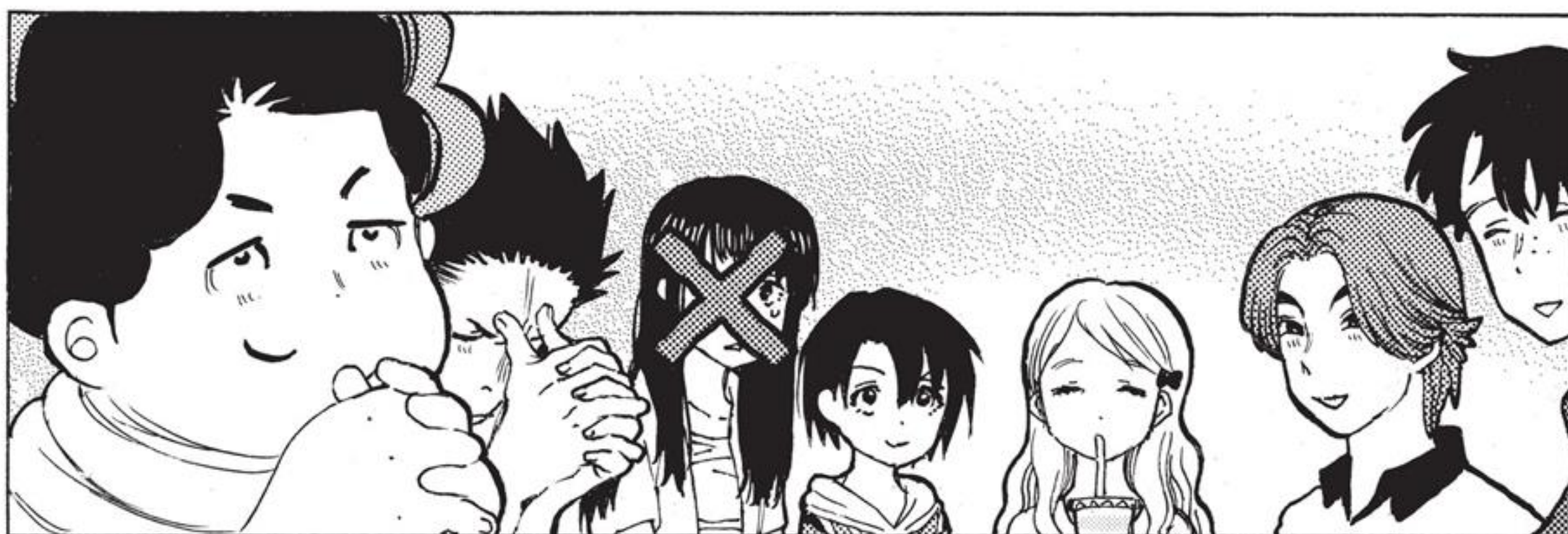


I DIDN'T SET
THIS UP TO MAKE
YOU ANGRY, OKAY?
I JUST THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE NICE
IF YOU TWO COULD
GET ALONG LIKE
YOU USED TO...













YOU AND
ME ARE A
LOT ALIKE,
HUH?



NO,
WE'RE
NOT.



WELL,
WE'RE
NOT.

I JUST
THOUGHT
THAT...



IF SHOKO
HADN'T
SHOWN UP,
WE ALL WOULD
HAVE BEEN
HAPPY.

IT'S HER
FAULT YOUR
LIFE WAS
RUINED.

IF YOU TRACE
IT BACK TO THE
SOURCE, ISN'T IT
SHOKO'S FAULT
THAT YOU'RE
GOING THROUGH
THIS RIGHT
NOW?

...
HUH?

THAT'S NOT
WHAT
HAPPENED
AND YOU
KNOW IT!

DON'T
JUST
ASSUME
MY LIFE
IS
RUINED
!!

YOU HAD
A FALLING-
OUT WITH
KEISUKE AND
KAZUKI.

IT WAS
RUINED.

I STOPPED
HANGING OUT
WITH THEM
BECAUSE I
WANTED TO!

HEY, I'M
FRIENDS
WITH
MIYOKO
NOW.





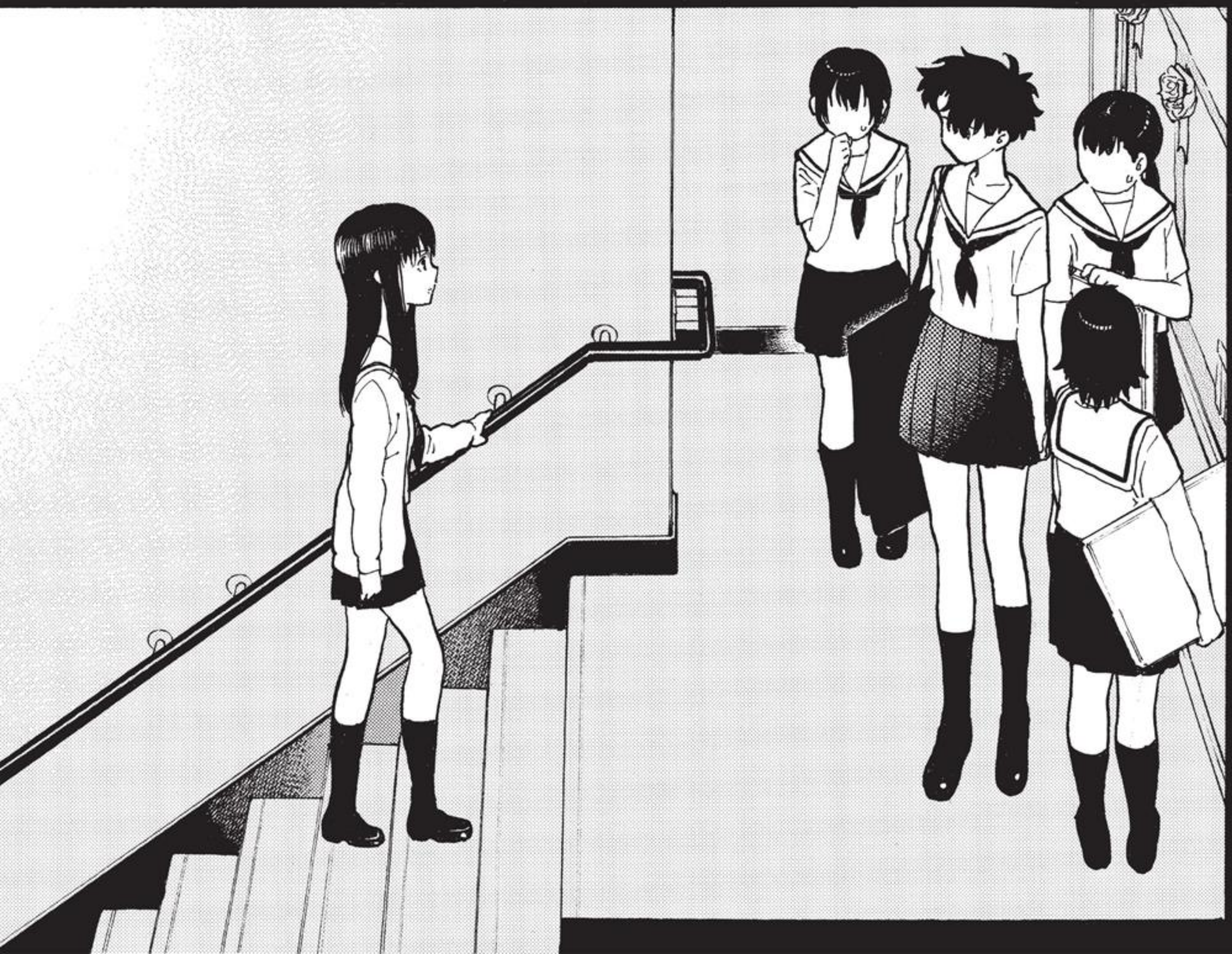
I WON
THE SILVER
BECAUSE
I'VE ALWAYS
ASPIRED TO
BE LIKE
NAOKA.



D-DON'T
TALK LIKE
THAT, OKAY,
GIRLS?

BUT,
MIYOKO!

DIDN'T
YOU HEAR
HOW SHE
WAS TALK-
ING ABOUT
YOUR
WORK?





WE'RE
GOING
HOME
TOGETHER
TODAY.



OKAY
...



SO...

WHY
DON'T YOU
TALK TO
KAZUKI
?

EEK!

EEK!

THINGS
MIGHT
CHANGE,
Y'KNOW.

EEK!

EEK!

...SO I
UNDERSTOOD
HER AND
REGRETTED
WHAT I DID,
AND NOW
WE'RE
FRIENDS.

AFTER
THAT, WE
TALKED
ON THE
TRAIN...

AND I
LEARNED
THAT MIYOKO
WAS STILL THE
SAME AIRHEAD
SHE WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL...



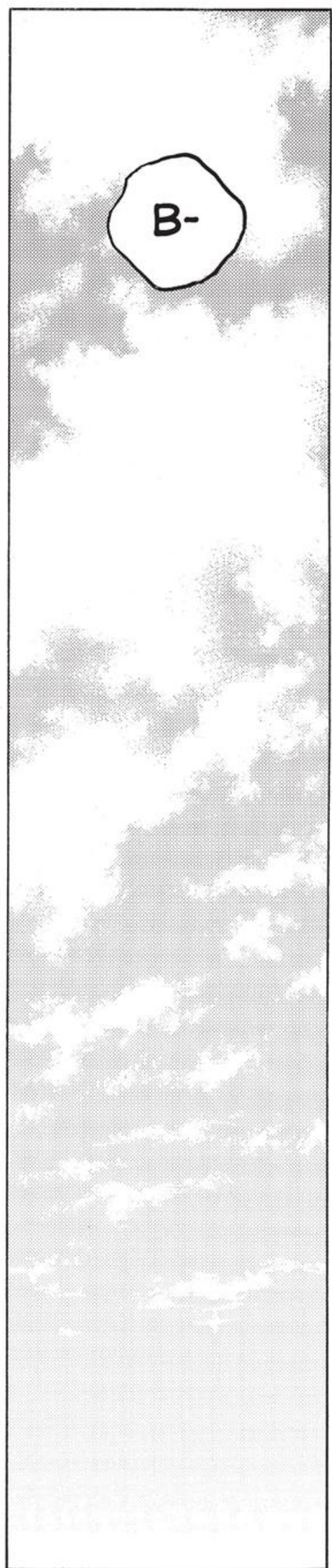
INTO
BEING
FRIENDS
WITH
THEM...

THEN
DON'T
FORCE ME
INTO THIS...



BUT
THAT'S
JUST ONE
CASE,
RIGHT?

I MEAN...
YOU STILL
HATE
SHOKO,
DON'T
YOU?



B-



Y-YOU
MEAN
THAT
HALF-
ASSED
APOLOGY
?!!!

...BUT
I MADE
UP WITH
SHOKO
THIS
MORNING.



...AM
I EVEN
ONE
TO
TALK?!



I WANTED
YOU TO
SIT DOWN
WITH HER
AND
TALK...

AND GET
TO KNOW
EACH
OTHER,
THEN—





